

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 231323

FOR ASST. SEC. SHLAUDEMAN FROM PETER JOHNSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OCON, HO

SUBJ: SEMINAR FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTERS'
DIRECTORS

FOR AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN.

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION URGENTLY
IF THE SEMINAR FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTERS'
DIRECTORS IS TO OCCUR IN LATE OCTOBER. IF YOU APPROVE
THE LETTER WE NEED YOUR AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN AND SEND
IT OUT.

2. THE SEMINAR IS PLANNED FOR TWO DAYS IN THE THIRD WEEK
OF OCTOBER. ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH
THESE ACADEMICS, STRENGTHEN THE BUREAU'S TIES WITH
THE VARIOUS STUDY CENTERS AND HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE INTEREST
BY PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS IN SUPPORT OF LATIN AMERICAN
STUDIES. THE AGENDA FOR THE SEMINAR IS NOT YET FIRM AS
WE WOULD LIKE THE VIEWS OF THE PARTICIPANTS ON THIS
POINT. TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE FUNDED BY THE
RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES. THIS LETTER WILL GO TO SOME
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TWENTY SCHOLARS.

3. QUOTE. DEAR :

I WOULD WELCOME YOUR REACTION TO AN IDEA WE IN THE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ARA) HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING IN RECENT WEEKS: THAT A SELECT GROUP OF DIRECTORS OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTERS JOIN US IN LATE OCTOBER TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MY PREDECESSOR, BILL ROGERS, BEGAN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING OUR COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. I TOTALLY AGREE WITH HIS CONCEPT AND WISH TO GIVE IT MORE MOMENTUM.

MY OWN TENTATIVE THOUGHTS ARE THAT THE AGENDA FOR SUCH A MEETING MIGHT INCLUDE: FIRST, A DISCUSSION OF THE KEY ISSUES WE SEE AHEAD IN THE U.S.-HEMISPHERE RELATIONS, INCLUDING YOUR VIEWS ON THOSE ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO OTHERS WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT. SECONDLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US ON POLICY-RELEVANT ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THIRDLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND LEARN FROM YOU WHAT RESEARCH IS GOING ON IN YOUR CENTERS.

ANOTHER PURPOSE, RELATED TO THE THIRD, WOULD BE TO PURSUE -- IN THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT -- THE DISCUSSION BEGUN LAST YEAR BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND A GROUP OF LEADING UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ON THE FUNDING OF ACADEMIC FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH. WE KNOW THAT WHILE FINANCIAL RESOURCES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SHORT FOR WIDE-RANGING RESEARCH ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE NEED FOR SCHOLARSHIP IS GREATER NOW THAN EVER. I WANT TO INCLUDE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OFFICIALS OF OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH FUNDING, AND I WOULD INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS FOUNDATIONS TO BE PRESENT AS OBSERVERS.

I HAVE IN MIND A MEETING OF TWO OR THREE DAYS IN LATE OCTOBER, PERHAPS OCTOBER 18-20.

WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR REACTION TO THE IDEA OF SUCH A MEETING, AS WELL AS THE DATES, THE AGENDA, AND WHETHER YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING. WE ARE VERY MUCH OPEN TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS. ROBINSON
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